


Explorer
Winter 2019

Worthington Celebrates “Game Changer” Connection

On December 12 Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) hosted a connection celebration. The event was scheduled to coincide with the end of Gov. Dayton’s term and the anticipated arrival of water. Unfortunately, Dayton was not able to attend due to his recovery from back surgery and water is not yet flowing due to contractor delays (see page 8). Neither though dampened the enthusiasm of the attendees as they celebrated water on the horizon.

Mayor Mike Kuhle said “Lewis & Clark is a game changer for Worthington” in terms of quality of life and expanded economic development opportunities. MN Management & Budget Commissioner Myron Frans, who worked closely on the federal funding advances, spoke on behalf of the governor and presented a proclamation to Chairman Red Arndt announcing December 12 as “Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Day” in MN. In thanks and appreciation for his strong

support and leadership in helping to secure \$44.5M in federal funding advances for L&C (current estimate is \$39.5M will be used), Arndt presented the Spirit of Discovery Award to Gov. Dayton, which was accepted by Frans.

State Senator Bill Weber, State Rep. Rod Hamilton, and WPU General Manager/L&C Director Scott Hain, who each played very important roles in the passage of the advances, recounted the battle stories of what it took to get the funding approved. Staff from the offices of Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith shared their congratulations. Gary Hoffmann, WPU president, talked about what the connection will mean long-term for the city.

In his closing remarks, Arndt dedicated the Worthington meter building in honor of the late Don Habicht and Scott Hain. Habicht, WPU’s long-time

Speakers included (left to right): Chuck Ackman from Klobuchar’s office, Bree Maki from Smith’s office, Arndt, Hain, Hamilton (seated), Weber, Hoffmann, Frans and Kuhle ...continued on page 2



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general manager, served on the L&C Board for over 16 years. Hain has served on the L&C Board for close to 13 years. Both made many trips to St. Paul on behalf of L&C, as well as worked closely with federal officials. “This is a

very well-deserved honor for both of these outstanding gentlemen,” said Arndt. A ribbon cutting ceremony at the meter building will be held this spring when water is flowing.



Beth Habicht, wife of the late Don Habicht, and Scott Hain hold the plaque that will be placed on the Worthington meter building



Don Habicht



Frans presents Arndt with a proclamation from Gov. Dayton making December 12 “Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Day” in MN



Arndt presents Frans with Gov. Dayton’s Spirit of Discovery Award

Proposed FY20 Budget Only Includes \$100,000 for Lewis & Clark

The Administration’s proposed FY20 Budget was released on March 11 and unfortunately only includes \$100,000 for L&C. This is the same amount as proposed in FY19, but significantly less than the \$3.65M proposed in FY18. “Same story different year. Regardless if it is a Republican or Democratic administration, we start with a low number. If not for the incredibly strong support and leadership of the tri-state delegation securing additional funding for the Rural Water Program, we would be dead in the water. We are counting on them yet again to go to bat for us with the FY20 Budget,” said Executive Director Troy Larson. The tri-state delegation, along with the delegations in MT, ND and NM, worked hard to increase funding for the Rural Water Program in the FY19 Budget by an additional \$98.74M, of which \$14.9M went to L&C.

Arndt and Centerville Receive Recognition at Annual Technical Conference

Chairman Red Arndt received the prestigious Friend of Rural Water Award at the SD Association of Rural Water Systems' Annual Technical Conference in Pierre on January 10. The well-deserved honor recognized Red for his close to 30 years of hard work, dedication, vision and leadership to help bring rural water into southeastern SD, southwestern MN and northwestern IA. Congratulations, Red!



Arndt receiving the Friend of Rural Water Award from SDARWS President Ron Gillen

At the annual water taste test, Centerville received the runner-up award. The community receives 100% of its water from L&C. This is the fourth consecutive year water produced by L&C has received first or second place, which is a testament to the great work and commitment by the operations team. Congratulations, Centerville!



L&C Director Brad Preheim of Centerville with the water taste test runner-up award

Rounds Recognizes Arndt in the Congressional Record

Senator Mike Rounds invited Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson to meet in Sioux Falls on Jan. 7. They provided a project update to Rounds and discussed L&C's legislative priorities. Rounds then presented Arndt with a statement he entered into the Congressional Record recognizing him "for his many years of leadership to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System and his commitment to providing safe water to rural America...I am grateful for his incredible dedication...I commend Red for his many great contributions and wish him the best as he continues to make the most out of the life God has given."

Arndt was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last September. He has completed his chemotherapy and radiation treatments, which have reduced the cancer. The treatments have resulted in quite a bit of weight loss. "All my life the doctors have been telling me to lose weight, now



Senator Rounds and Arndt

they are telling me to eat more so I don't lose weight!" said Arndt. He greatly appreciates the continued thoughts and prayers.

Backup Generator Installed at Tea Pump Station

A \$1,017,400 contract was awarded on June 27 to American Electric of Sioux Falls for a 1,500 kW backup generator for the Tea pump station. The barely used 2010 Cat generator only had four hours on it. It is grandfathered in with regard to the current emission standards. The low bid for a new generator was \$1,369,000, so significant savings going with the used one. The generator arrived on site on January 23 and the switchgear is currently being installed. April 19 is the substantial completion deadline.

There have been brief power outages at the Tea pump station, which is the main hub in the distribution system. Fortunately, so far no outage has lasted for more than an hour. With the fourteen connected members, 93% of the members' reserved capacity flows through the pump station and when all the members are connected the percentage will still be close to 90%. The importance of having uninterrupted service is clear, especially with L&C being the sole source provider of water to seven of the SD members – Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County RWS, Parker and Tea. "The backup generator will ensure we are able to provide continued water deliveries to our members even if power is lost at the pump station for an extended period of time," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

The backup generator is part of the authorized project, but installation was delayed as the focus was to use available funds to put pipe in the ground. L&C's Board of Directors readily agreed with staff the time had come to install the generator. A combination of federal funding and the remaining funds from SD's \$7.7M federal funding advance, approved in 2015, are being used.



Collector Well Design Begins

HDR Engineering recently started designing the collector well at Site B that will hopefully produce at least 16 million gallons a day, if not more. They first needed the data from one test well (see photo at left) and six observation wells at Site B. Sargent Drilling completed the work on these wells on December 21 and the subsequent test pumping provided valuable data for the design. Awarding the contract for the collector well will depend on when Congress approves the FY20 Budget, so October would be the earliest. Due to environmental restrictions involving migratory birds, there are only certain months when unrestricted construction is allowed. Consequently, it is expected to take two years to complete. The plan is to have the well operational by late 2021.

tru Shrimp to Construct First Harbor in Madison

tru Shrimp announced on January 4 it is building its first harbor in Madison. Company and city officials both cited access to reliable quality water as one of the key reasons for their decision. L&C currently has a “wheeling plan” in place in cooperation with Minnehaha Community Water Corporation and Big Sioux Community Water System to deliver up to one million gallons a day to Madison, and based on recent federal funding levels anticipates having the service line completed in ten years.

According to tru Shrimp officials, the harbor will employ 60 people and annually produce eight million pounds of shrimp. Construction is expected to begin this summer on the 67-acre harbor complex and be completed by the end of 2020. The harbor will bring an economic impact of \$45M in the construction of the facility, with an ongoing annual impact of \$30M.



tru Shrimp announced in June 2017 it would construct its first harbor in Luverne. Company officials at the time said the city’s access to L&C water was one of the key factors. Unfortunately, they said an “obscure” water discharge regulatory issue would prevent them from maintaining their construction schedule, which caused the switch to Madison. However, company officials have stressed they still plan to construct a future harbor in Luverne,

assuming the regulatory issue is addressed. “We are very happy for Madison and certainly hope tru Shrimp’s plan to build a future harbor in Luverne comes to fruition. We have long said “build it and they will come” in terms of economic development opportunities that access to L&C water affords the members. With both Madison and Luverne, we are pleased long-term access to L&C water is playing an important role in the creation of this new “aquaculture” industry in the tri-state region,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Sweeter Retires, Hammer Joins Board

Don Sweeter of South Lincoln RWS retired from the Board of Directors after 13 years of service. The January 24 meeting was his last after being appointed in February 2006. Ralph Hammer, who has been the Minnehaha County weed and pest supervisor for over 20 years and has served on the South Lincoln RWS Board of Directors for over 35 years, was appointed to the Board at the February 28 meeting. “We thank Don for his 13 years of service and his long-time commitment to the advancement of rural water. We also extend our warmest welcome to Ralph. His many years of experience at South Lincoln RWS will no doubt be an asset to us,” said Chairman Red Arndt.



Left: Don Sweeter
Above: Ralph Hammer

Iowa Pipeline Contract Awarded

Connecting Sioux Center and Hull by 2021 is Goal

An \$8.2M contract was awarded on January 24 to Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids, SD (formerly of Pipestone, MN) for ten miles of 24-inch diameter PVC pipe starting at Sioux Center and heading west. “The original budget in our authorization, as indexed for inflation, was just over \$11M so we were incredibly pleased with the low bid,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

This will be Carstensen’s sixth pipeline project. They anticipate starting work this summer. First, they will start work this spring on Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 12 (TWP-12), the just over eleven miles of 24-inch diameter PVC pipe starting at Beresford and heading east. Pipe started arriving in December (see photo below). This \$9.2M contract was awarded in August 2018.

With construction underway on both ends, L&C plans to award a contract in June for the 12.6 miles of pipeline in the middle, including the Big Sioux River crossing. Also needed to deliver water to Sioux Center and Hull are a meter building at Sioux Center, expansion of the existing meter building at Hull, a water tower near Beresford, and adding pumps to the Beresford pump station/meter building. Depending on federal funding levels and the request for a \$3.5M federal funding advance from Iowa (see next page), the goal is to connect Sioux Center and Hull by the end of 2021.



Reynolds Includes \$3.5M “Advance” in Budget Request

L&C officials were thrilled when Gov. Kim Reynolds included a \$3.5M “federal funding advance” in her infrastructure budget on January 15. They made the request to Reynolds and her staff last fall. “Governor Reynolds has been an incredible supporter of Lewis & Clark through the years. She knows how important the project is to expanding economic development opportunities in northwest Iowa. We cannot thank her enough for her continued strong support and leadership,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

If approved by the Legislature, the funding would be provided over two years – \$1.8M in FY20 and \$1.7M in FY21. The \$1.8M would be used to construct the Sioux Center meter building, expand the existing Hull meter building and build a portion of the pipeline just east of the Big Sioux River. The \$1.7M would be used to design and acquire easements for the 17 mile stretch of pipeline between Hull and Sheldon.



On the House floor (left to right): Rep. John Wills, Rep. Dan Huseman, Larson, Sioux Center’s Scott Wynja, Rep. Skyler Wheeler, Hull’s Jim Collins, Sheldon’s Todd Uhl and (seated) Sibley’s Larry Pedley

A joint hearing of the Senate and House members of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Capital Appropriations Subcommittee was held in Des Moines on February 26 to learn more about the funding request. Officials from L&C, Hull, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center attended. “We felt the hearing went very well and we heard a lot of positive feedback during and after the hearing, but we will not be taking anything for granted. We will continue to work closely with legislators and the governor to ensure the funding is included in the final budget,” said Larson.



Legal Wrangling Continues on Pipe Coating and Roof

Discovery, the exchange of pertinent documents followed by depositions, is underway in the ongoing legal dispute involving defective coating on the exterior of roughly nine miles of 24-inch diameter steel pipe on MN – Segment 3B between Magnolia and Adrian. Ameron is the pipe manufacturer. The defective coating, which is meant to protect the pipe from corrosion, does not comply with the plans and specs.

L&C is also working with their attorneys to recoup expenses related to work done last year on the defective roof at the treatment plant in order to extend its useful life. This included adding ballast, vents and mechanical fasteners to try to prevent the membrane from blowing off in high winds, as portions of it has on two occasions.

Leaks Continue to Delay Pipeline to Worthington

S.J. Louis continues to be dogged by leaks on MN – Segment 4, the 15 miles of pipeline between Adrian and Worthington. They made the decision to continue working through the winter to locate and fix leaks (32 as of March 5). The revised substantial completion deadline is November 23, 2018, but unfortunately the line will not be ready to deliver water before April. S.J. Louis believes all the leaks have been located and fixed on the four miles

of 20-inch diameter PVC pipe and the six miles of 16-inch diameter PVC pipe. However, their kryptonite continues to be the five miles of 24-inch diameter PVC pipe on the west end of the project. They are capping smaller segments to try to isolate the leaks.



Above and Left: Repairing leaks on the 24-inch pipe

Below: Mistakenly cutting into the pipe while it is still under pressure causes it to burst with explosive force. Fortunately, nobody was injured.



One Replacement Well Down, Three to Go

Well Construction and their subcontractor Layne reached substantial completion on December 21 on the first vertical well at Site C. By the end of December 2019 they need to complete one more vertical well at Site C and two at Site D.

To reduce the velocity of the water flow to address the operational challenges with the wells (see page 12), changes in HDR Engineering’s design of these four vertical wells included a larger diameter screen and more gravel pack (six inches) around the screen. Also, in order to prevent another potential screen collapse (see page 12), another design change involved the weight of the well pump, motor and column piping being distributed to the floor of the vault and not on to the well screen and casing.

These four vertical wells will replace four adjacent angle wells being abandoned because their decreasing capacity cannot be restored through rehabilitation, as well as increased maintenance and repair expenses. “The angle wells were recommended as part of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Value-Engineering Review as

a way to secure the same capacity as a collector well but at a lower cost. Unfortunately, that turned out to be a very expensive mistake,” said Executive Director Troy Larson. Federal funding is being used for the \$1.9M replacement wells contract.



48 inch diameter drill head used to bore 100 feet deep for the replacement well



Above: 36 inch diameter screen used for the replacement well

Left: To reduce costs by re-using as much of the existing infrastructure as possible, the replacement well vaults are being constructed adjacent to the angle well vaults. A doorway was cut into the angle well vault to utilize the existing flow meter, manual valve, surge control valve and air release valve inside.

Project Officials Attend National Rural Water Rally

Larson Guest of Senator Rounds at State of the Union

Directors Murray Hulstein (Sioux Center), Scott Hain (Worthington) and Executive Director Troy Larson attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. in early February. They met with members of the tri-state delegation and their staffs, including newly elected congressmen Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Jim Hagedorn (R-MN), during two days of meetings. Discussions focused on L&C's three main legislative priorities – 1.) Urge administration to increase funding for L&C and the Rural Water Program in its proposed FY20 Budget, 2.) Work to again increase funding for the Rural Water Program in the final FY20 Budget, and 3.) Exclude fully vetted authorized projects like L&C from the earmark ban. “There were no silver bullet answers, but everyone expressed their continued strong support and willingness to do whatever they can to help.

We also appreciated the opportunity to meet with Johnson and Hagedorn to bring them up to speed on the project, and very much look forward to working closely with them,” said Larson.

The timing of the Rally coincided with the one-week delayed State of the Union Address. Larson was invited to attend as the special guest of Senator Mike Rounds. “It was an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I was incredibly thankful, humbled and honored to be invited by Senator Rounds,” said Larson.



Left:
Congressman
Johnson



Right: Senator
Rounds and
Larson prior to the
State of the Union



Above: Congressman Hagedorn

Left: L&C's lobbyist
Summer Mersinger, Larson,
Hain and Hulstein

Reservoirs Nearing Completion

After a lengthy delay and multiple efforts to fix a leak, Preload finally reached substantial completion on January 10 for the four million gallon Rock County reservoir southwest of Luverne (see middle photo below). The substantial completion deadline was originally the fall of 2017, but was later moved to April 20, 2018. “It is easy to be a good contractor when everything goes well, but the real test is when things go south. Preload took responsibility for the problems, worked hard to correct them and made us whole in terms of the added costs for the delays,” said Executive Director Troy Larson. Final site restoration work will be completed in the spring.

Preload is also constructing the two million gallon Nobles County reservoir west of Worthington. On January 10 they completed as much work as they could without access to water, including applying the shotcrete and constructing the adjacent vault. The delays on MN – Segment 4 (see page 8) is preventing them from filling the reservoir and testing it for leaks. Preload winterized the reservoir (see photo at bottom right) and will return to perform the leak test as soon as water is flowing. They will paint the reservoir and complete site restoration in the spring.



Above: Applying shotcrete



Above: Constructing the vault



Below: Inside the vault





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Operations Update

A silver lining for the record cold temps is Gacke Enterprises is making great progress removing sludge from the lime drying beds at the treatment plant (see photo below). The sludge is a by-product of the treatment process and has many agricultural uses. In recent winters the floors of the drying beds have been too soft for equipment to remove the sludge.

Rehabilitating the wells continues to be a challenge (see photo at right). The restored capacity from the rehabilitation does not last as long as expected. Also, one vertical well at Site A recently dropped several inches when the jetting being done to clear the well screens caused an underground void to form. The drop crushed the top one foot of the screen, which will need

to be repaired. In coordination with L&C staff, HDR Engineering made design changes to future wells to hopefully prevent this from happening again, as well as other design changes to better account

for the fine sands that plug the screens. “Even with these design changes, it is clear going forward we will need to run the wells at lower speeds than planned in order to

minimize the screens getting plugged and hopefully extend the lifespan of the wells. Lower speeds mean lower capacity, so in turn we will need to drill more wells than expected,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Repairs to a flooded well vault caused by a loose fitting and repairs to the motor of a backup generator at one of the wells are just two other recent challenges that have kept staff on their toes.

